

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 202612

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT VIENNA 7855 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DATED
11 SEP 1974:

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 7855

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, AU, SREF

SUBJECT: CHANCELLOR KREISKY'S VIEWS ON FLOW OF SOVIET
JEWISH EMIGRES THROUGH AUSTRIA

REF: VIENNA 7794

SUMMARY: GOA REQUESTS THAT USG, IN WORKING OUT ANY
ARRANGEMENT WITH USSR FOR INCREASING FLOW OF SOVIET
JEWISH EMIGRES, ALSO IN EFFECT MAKE APPROPRIATE ARRANGE-
MENTS FOR INCREASE TO BE ROUTED VIA OTHER POINTS THAN
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VIENNA. GOA FULLY WILLING CONTINUE HANDLE CURRENT FLOW

OF ABOUT 25,000 PER YEAR, BUT FEELS THAT FOR TECHNICAL-ADMINISTRATIVE AND POLITICAL REASONS THERE SHOULD BE MORE EQUITABLE SHARING OF BURDEN AMONG WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES OF ANY INCREASE IN FLOW. GUIDANCE REQUESTED.
END SUMMARY

1. CHANCELLOR KREISKY'S PRESS COORDINATOR
AMBASSADOR THALBERG CALLED IN ACTING DCM IN LATE AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 10 TO INFORM HIM OF SUBSTANCE OF CABINET DISCUSSION HELD EARLIER SAME DAY ON POSSIBILITY OF INCREASED FLOW OF SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRES THROUGH AUSTRIA AND REQUESTED THAT CHANCELLOR'S CONCERNS ON THIS SUBJECT BE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF APPROPRIATE USG AUTHORITIES.

2. BY WAY OF INTRODUCING TOPIC, THALBERG OBSERVED THAT WHILE AUSTRIA HAS NOT BEEN INFORMED OF THE STATUS OF US-USSR DISCUSSION ON INCREASED SOVIET EMIGRATION, PRESS REPORTS SUGGEST THAT PROSPECTS LOOK INCREASINGLY FAVORABLE FOR SOME SORT OF UNDERSTANDING BEING CONCLUDED TO ALLOW LARGER NUMBERS OF SOVIET JEWS TO LEAVE USSR AND, THAT THEREFORE, GOA FEELS TIME IS PROPITIOUS FOR PUTTING ITS VIEWS ON SUBJECT BEFORE USG SO THAT THEY MAY BE FACTORED INTO USG THINKING AND PLANNING ON MATTER.

3. ACCORDING TO THALBERG, MAJOR CONCERN OF CHANCELLOR IS THAT ANY SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN FLOW OF SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRES ABOVE CURRENT 25,000 ANNUAL FIGURE PASSING THROUGH VIENNA BE SO ORGANIZED AS TO PERMIT THEIR PROCESSING AT TRANSIT SITES IN OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. CITED IN THIS REGARD WERE POSSIBLE FLIGHTS FROM USSR TO POSSIBLE SITES IN NETHERLANDS OR IN ITALY OR EVEN DIRECT FLIGHTS FROM MOSCOW TO ISRAEL, SINCE, GOA VIEW, THERE EXISTS NO TECHNICAL REASON WHY ALL SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRES SHOULD PASS THROUGH VIENNA. BASIC DESIRE OF GOA, AS PARAPHRASED BY THALBERG, IS FOR MORE EQUITABLE SHARING AMONG WESTERN EUROPEAN STATES OF POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE-TECHNICAL BURDENS OF PROCESSING SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRES.
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4. THALBERG EXPLAINED THAT ANY INCREASED FLOW THROUGH VIENNA WOULD GENERATE NOT ONLY MAJOR TECHNICAL-ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS FOR AUSTRIA, BUT ALSO MAJOR POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR GOA, BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY. FOLLOWING TRAUMA OF SCHONAU INCIDENT, GOA SHIFTED SITE OF TRANSIT FACILITY TEMPORARILY TO MILITARY INSTALLATION AND MOST RECENTLY TO LOCATION IN OUTER DISTRICT OF

VIENNA. TO PROVIDE FOR SAFETY OF FACILITY INHABITANTS, LATEST SITE SURROUNDED BY HIGH CONCRETE WALL WITH BARBED WIRE FENCE AND HEAVILY ARMED GUARDS, ALL OF WHICH GIVES FORTRESS-LIKE APPEARANCE TO SETTING IN PROXIMITY OF HOUSING DEVELOPMENT NEAR AIRPORT AND WHICH HAS RESULTED IN PUBLIC OUTCRY FOR MOVING SITE AGAIN (VIENNA 7794). BIGGEST AUSTRIAN CONCERN REMAINS THAT OF POSSIBLE NEW ATTEMPT BY ARAB TERRORIST GROUP TO STAGE INCIDENT. INCREASE IN FLOW OF EMIGRES WOULD, IN GOA VIEW, ALSO PROBABLY GIVE RISE TO RENEWED PRESSURE FROM ARAB GOVERNMENTS.

5. THALBERG STRESSED AT SAME TIME THAT KREISKY HAS NO INTENTION OF REDUCING SIZE OF FLOW AUSTRIA HAS HITHERTO BEEN HANDLING AND THAT GOA WOULD CONTINUE TO DO ITS BEST, IN ACCORD WITH ITS HUMANITARIAN COMMITMENTS, TO PROTECT AND PROCESS CURRENT FLOW OF EMIGRES.

6. THALBERG INDICATED CHANCELLOR WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING USG VIEWS ON WHAT PLANS, IF ANY, ARE CONTEMPLATED FOR HANDLING POSSIBLE INCREASE IN NUMBER OF SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRES EXITING SOVIET UNION. HUMES UNQTE KISSINGER

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